

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 151010Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1271

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, LA, VS, VN

SUBJECT: SWEDISH DELEGATION VISITS VIETNAM

SUMMARY: SWEDISH DELEGATION LED BY RIKSDAGSWOMAN BIRGITTA DAHL HAS RETURNED FROM VISIT TO PRG AREAS OF VIETNAM AND PATHET LAO AREAS OF LAOS. THEY REPORT MUCH DEVASTATION BUT PRG ORGANIZING REHABILITATION. THEY MET MADAME BINH AT CAM LO, WHERE "PROVISIONAL QUARTERS" FOR FOREIGN EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN BUILT. IN LAOS DELEGATION VISITED SOUPHANOUVONG IN HIS CAVE. MRS. DAHL DECRISE VIOLATIONS OF PEACE AGREEMENTS BY SAIGON AND USG AND ANNOUNCES INTENSIVE WEEK-LONG CAMPAIGN IN SWEDEN TO COINCIDE WITH ANNIVERSARY OF PARIS AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. A DELEGATION FROM THE SWEDISH VIETNAM COMMITTEE HAS RETURNED AFTER TWO-WEEK VISIT TO NORTH VIETNAM, PRG AREAS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND PATHET LAO AREAS IN LAOS.

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DELEGATION WAS LED BY BIRGITTA DAHL, CHAIRWOMAN OF

SWEDISH VIETNAM COMMITTEE AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MEMBER OF RIKSDAG. OTHERS IN DELEGATION WERE RIKSDAG MEMBERS JOHN TAKMAN (COMMUNIST VPK) AND MRS. GUNNEL JONANG (CENTER PARTY); OMBUDSMAN KLAS THORBERG OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION; ARTIST HELGA HENSCHEN, AND SECRETARY MAUD SUNDQVIST OF THE VIETNAM COMMITTEE. DAHL, JONANG AND SUNDQVIST VISITED PRG TERRITORY FOR FOUR DAYS, WHILE THE OTHER THREE IN THE DELEGATION VISITED LAOS.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE UPON ARRIVAL AT ARLANDA AIRPORT, AS REPORTED BY PRESS, MRS. DAHL SAID DELEGATION FOUND PRG AREAS AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF NORTH VIETNAM EVEN MORE DEVASTATED THAN THEY EXPECTED. OF 800 VILLAGES IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE ONLY SIX HAD NOT BEEN TOTALLY WIPED OUT AND IN ONE AREA IN SOUTHERN NORTH VIETNAM ONLY TWO VILLAGES OF 240 STILL LOOKED AS IF THEY HAD BEEN INHABITED PLACES, SHE SAID. DAHL SAID INTENSE REHABILITATION EFFORT IS IN PROGRESS IN QUANG TRI AND 68,000 ACRES OF LAND HAVE BEEN RECULTIVATED. SHE CLAIMED 170 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED BY MINES IN FIELDS THAT, ACCORDING TO PARIS AGREEMENT, SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLEARED BY SAIGON.

3. MRS. DAHL SAID HER GROUP CROSSED SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER JANUARY 4. SHE SAID PROCEDURE WAS SAME AS IN CROSSING ANY REGULAR BORDER, WITH PRG STAMPING THE PASSPORTS. SWEDEN'S AMBASSADOR IN HANOI JEAN CHRISTOPHE OBERG WAS WITH GROUP. "WE ENCOUNTERED NO PROBLEMS IN CHANGING OUR PROGRAMS OR GETTING SPECIAL AGREEMENTS TO INSPECT WHAT WE WANTED TO SEE IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE," MRS. DAHL DECLARED, ADDING THAT IT WAS NOT PERMITTED TO MOVE AROUND FREELY--IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF THE MINES.

4. DAHL SAID AMERICAN RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OVERFLEW QUANG TRI WHEN DELEGATION WAS THERE. SHE SAID, "CRATERS, RUINS AND SCRAP DUMPS NOW MEET THE EYE WHERE AMERICAN FORTRESSES HAD BEEN, BUT VEGETABLES WERE GROWN AMONG THE RUINS," AND AT DONG HA, SEAT OF THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION, MRS. DAHL SAW A BOOKSTORE THAT AMONG OTHER THINGS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFERED EDITIONS OF SHAKESPEARE. AT CAM LO, WHERE SHE SAID THERE ARE PROVISIONAL QUARTERS FOR FOREIGN EMBASSIES, DELEGATION MET MADAME BINH. GUEST HOUSES HAD BEEN BUILT IN THE TOWN. "WE COULD SEE THE PRG HAS THE CAPACITY TO ORGANIZE THE REHABILITATION," MRS. DAHL SAID. ACCORDING TO DAHL, A HARBOR IS IN OPERATION AND ROADS ARE REPAIRED; IT IS POSSIBLE TO DELIVER AID SHIPMENTS; NUMBER OF COWS, PIGS, AND BUFFALOES IS ON THE INCREASE;

SHOPS AND SMALL INDUSTRIES ARE OPERATING; ONE OF THREE CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL AND FAMILIES ARE REUNITED.

5. JOHN TAKMAN LED THE GROUP WHICH VISITED LAOS AND REPORTED THAT THEY MET PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG. THE DELEGATION TRAVELED BY JEEP TO HIS CAVE, ALONG A BOMBS-CARRED ROAD FROM NORTH VIETNAM. THE PRINCE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT STOPPED ITS MILITARY INTERVENTION IN LAOS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE BORDER AREAS ARE BEING BOMBED BY THE VIENTIANE AIR FORCE.

6. MRS. DAHL ASSERTED IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT PARIS AND VIENTIANE AGREEMENTS BE OBSERVED TO SECURE PEACE AND INDEPENDENCE WHICH IS A CONDITION FOR A LIFE IN SECURITY. "CONSTANT VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENTS AND THREATS FROM WASHINGTON AND SAIGON OF NEW MILITARY ACTIONS ARE CRIMES AGAINST WHICH ALL PEOPLE SHOULD REACT," SHE SAID.

7. MRS. DAHL ANNOUNCED SWEDISH VIETNAM COMMITTEE WILL LAUNCH JANUARY 21 WEEK-LONG CAMPAIGN TO MARK FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING OF PARIS AGREEMENT. "INTENTION IS TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION, POLITICIANS, THE GOVERNMENT, PARTY LEADERS AND THE SWEDISH CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (LO), AS WELL AS RESPONSIBLE POLITICIANS IN NORDIC AND OTHER COUNTRIES, UNITED STATES INCLUDED."

COMMENT: DAHL GROUP VISIT SERVES TO RE-FOCUS ATTENTION OF SWEDEN'S ACTIVIST LEFT ON VIETNAM. IT WILL BE INSTRUCTIVE TO SEE WHAT KIND OF PUBLIC RESPONSE DAHL'S CLARION-CALL EVOKES.  
OLSEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMISTICE, TREATY VIOLATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STOCKH00157  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <23 MAY 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SWEDISH DELEGATION VISITS VIETNAM SUMMARY: SWEDISH DELEGATION LED BY RIKSDAGSWOMAN BIRGITTA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SW, LA, VS, VN, US, (DAHAL, BIRGITTA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005